



# Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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## CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 3

### AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Rain slowed corn and soybean harvest in most areas of the state early in the week, but harvest continued to make good progress, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn harvest is 1 day behind average, but 6 days ahead of last year. Soybean harvest is 1 day behind average, but 7 days ahead of last year. Soybean harvest is nearing completion on many farms. Fall tillage continued to make excellent progress during the week. Soil moisture has improved aided by the recent precipitation. Many farmers were plowing fields, discing stalks and chiseling. Seeding winter wheat, selling grain, spreading fertilizer and lime were other major activities taking place last week.

### FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 4.4 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Seventy-eight percent of the corn acreage is **harvested** compared with 63 percent last year and 79 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 77 percent of the corn acreage is harvested in the north, 75 percent in the central regions and 86 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested corn is averaging 18 percent.

Ninety-three percent of the soybean acreage is **harvested** compared with 83 percent last year and 94 percent for the average. By area, 96 percent of the soybean acreage is harvested in the north, 95 percent in the central regions and 82 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans is averaging about 12.5 percent.

Ninety-four percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is seeded compared with 85 percent last year and 93 percent for the average. By area, 96 percent of the winter wheat acreage is seeded in the north, 94 percent in the central regions and 93 percent in the south. Seventy-seven percent of the winter wheat acreage has **emerged** compared with 68 percent last year and 76 percent for the average.

### LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

**Pasture condition** is rated 1 percent excellent, 23 percent good, 43 percent fair, 20 percent poor and 13 percent very poor. Pastures continued to improve in some areas. Livestock remain in mostly good condition. Hay supplies are in short supply in most regions. Hay prices are high. Fall calving continued.

### CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Harvested	78	66	63	79
Soybeans Harvested	93	89	83	94
Winter Wheat Planted	94	89	85	93
Winter Wheat Emerged	77	64	68	76

### CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	13	20	43	23	1
Winter Wheat	0	1	35	56	8

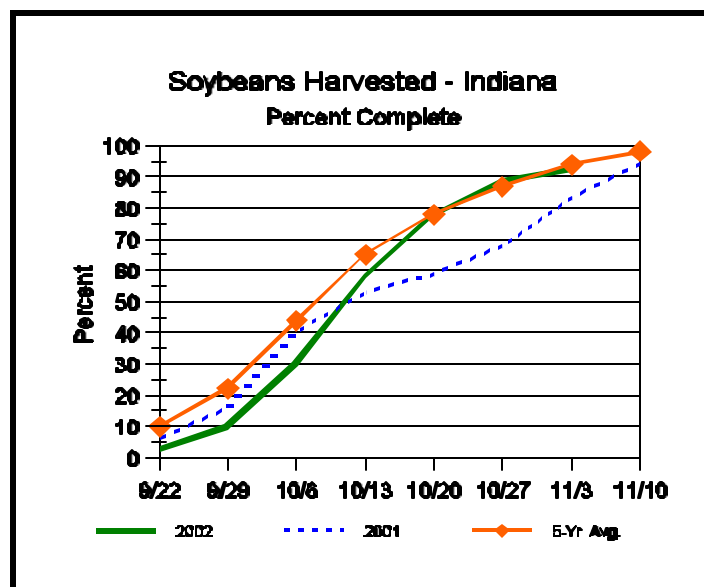
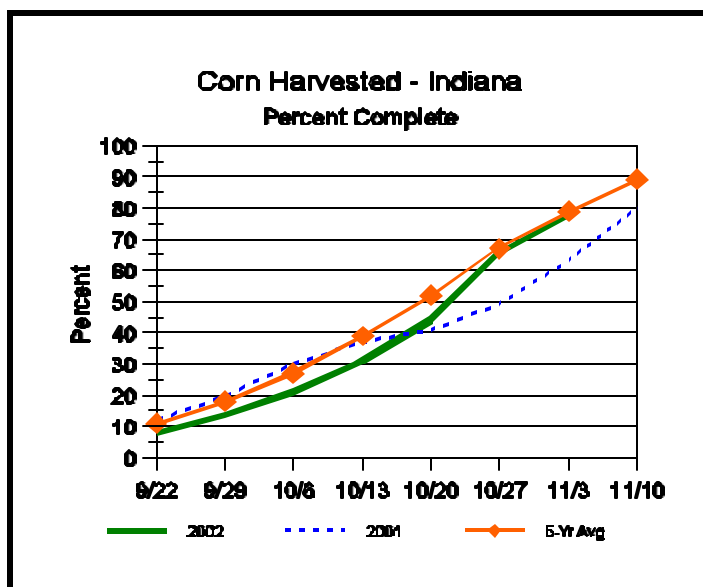
### SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	6	6	0
Short	16	23	1
Adequate	64	65	57
Surplus	14	6	42
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	16	19	1
Short	32	35	5
Adequate	50	45	64
Surplus	2	1	30
<b>Days Suitable</b>	4.4	5.1	5.1

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# Crop Progress



## Other Agricultural Comments And News

### Soil Compaction Not Always Grounds For Deep Tillage

WEST LAFAYETTE, IN — Crop fields are taking the 2002 season hard, but it might not require a deep tillage operation to loosen them up.

The wild weather extremes that compelled many farmers to plant into wet soils in late spring and then baked the earth with excessive heat and drought this summer did more than damage potential crop yields. Those hasty field operations and subsequent rainy/dry periods also laid the groundwork for compacted soils.

Farmers anxious to break up tough soil layers to prevent crop losses in 2003 should first determine the extent of the compaction problem, said Tony Vyn, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service cropping systems specialist. Although it might be tempting to pull a deep ripping implement across their fields, farmers shouldn't underestimate the soil loosening power of nature.

"We can't necessarily assume that planting operations when surface soils were too wet resulted in deep compaction," Vyn said. "It may very well be that the bulk of the compaction was actually quite close to the soil surface, and that the compaction can be alleviated by natural processes like soil wetting and drying, earthworms and crop rooting activity. Compaction can be alleviated even further by frost activity over the winter."

Compaction occurs when heavy farm machinery presses down on soil as the equipment travels over a field. Compacted soils can make it difficult for crops to grow properly if plant roots are unable to penetrate dense soil layers except through weaker cracks or large pores.

Generally, only well-defined, compacted soil layers deeper than 4 inches below the soil surface are candidates for loosening, or subsoiling, Vyn said.

Careful evaluation of soils will help farmers identify deep compacted layers. Vyn suggests performing a soil evaluation when the ground is uniformly wet to a depth of two feet or more. A farmer should dig a 20 - to 24 - inch deep hole, exposing a vertical soil profile. Then, using constant pressure, try pushing a pocketknife blade from the surface down to the maximum depth of the blade. If the farmer has a harder time sliding the blade through a particular area a few inches wide, a compacted layer might be present.

Such soil evaluations should be done at four or more random areas in fields of 50-plus acres, Vyn said. Farmers also should note crop rooting patterns. If a significant number of roots have grown sideways before finding a crack in the soil and growing down again, it may be a sign of compaction.

When subsoiling is warranted, it should be done when soils are dry.

"Typically, we suggest that loosening operations be done when soils are reasonably dry, because we tend to get more shattering of the soil between the shanks of a ripper or subsoiling tool," Vyn said. "If rains cause very damp soil conditions, then it's possible to create a greater problem using a subsoiling tool through smearing as the tool is pulled through the soil."

In some cases, subsoiling makes a bad situation worse, Vyn said.

"What tends to happen after a ripping operation is you have one or more passes with tractors and tillage implements, which can result in a re-formation of a dense soil layer at the depth of the next tillage operation, or at even greater depths if there are high axle loads with the tractor," he said, adding that excessive loosening can lead to harvest delays the following year under wet fall conditions.

(Continued on Page 4)

# Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday November 3, 2002

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air				Precip.		Avg	April 1, 2002 thru				
	Temperature				Total		4 in	November 3, 2002				
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil	Precipitation		Days	GDD Base 50°F	
								Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
<b>Northwest (1)</b>												
Chalmers_5W	56	25	41	-9	0.61	2		20.32	-4.62	77	3351	+134
Valparaiso_AP_I	52	24	40	-8	0.13	1		19.73	-7.82	75	3359	+415
Wanatah	53	22	39	-8	0.14	1	46	20.19	-6.13	83	3162	+373
Wheatfield	54	25	40	-7	0.28	2		24.74	-0.53	64	3225	+381
Winamac	52	24	39	-8	0.49	2	42	22.94	-2.45	76	3277	+342
<b>North Central(2)</b>												
Plymouth	53	24	39	-9	0.23	2		20.85	-5.38	79	3142	+48
South_Bend	52	22	39	-8	0.00	0		17.64	-8.00	74	3338	+439
Young_America	55	26	41	-7	0.51	1		24.31	-0.46	66	3392	+361
<b>Northeast (3)</b>												
Columbia_City	51	24	39	-8	0.15	1	44	21.33	-3.38	69	3087	+324
Fort_Wayne	51	23	40	-8	0.14	1		22.49	-0.16	65	3362	+315
<b>West Central (4)</b>												
Greencastle	56	24	41	-9	0.88	3		33.88	+5.41	74	3282	-178
Perrysville	57	26	41	-8	0.61	3	51	31.47	+5.02	73	3467	+261
Spencer_Ag	57	23	41	-7	1.22	4		36.11	+7.68	75	3540	+314
Terre_Haute_AFB	58	23	43	-7	0.70	2		35.99	+9.19	71	3775	+342
W_Lafayette_6NW	56	26	41	-7	0.61	2	46	27.79	+2.71	80	3421	+389
<b>Central (5)</b>												
Eagle_Creek_AP	57	28	42	-8	0.64	4		27.01	+1.91	76	3783	+386
Greenfield	56	25	40	-9	0.86	4		35.05	+7.51	76	3555	+292
Indianapolis_AP	57	24	42	-8	0.61	2		25.62	+0.52	67	3924	+527
Indianapolis_SE	56	26	41	-9	0.80	4		30.59	+4.80	68	3554	+164
Tipton_Ag	54	25	41	-6	0.34	2	52	24.94	-0.98	71	3272	+341
<b>East Central (6)</b>												
Farmland	57	24	41	-6	0.43	1	42	23.12	-1.57	68	3367	+510
New_Castle	55	27	41	-6	0.66	3		26.53	+0.06	63	3061	+131
<b>Southwest (7)</b>												
Evansville	62	23	46	-7	0.99	5		28.41	+2.83	64	4449	+487
Freelandville	59	27	43	-8	1.51	4		33.02	+6.47	63	3984	+434
Shoals	57	25	42	-9	1.59	4		30.25	+1.48	61	3853	+411
Stendal	57	26	43	-8	0.76	3		32.05	+3.66	62	4180	+463
Vincennes_5NE	58	29	43	-7	1.67	5	46	37.00	+10.45	75	4088	+538
<b>South Central(8)</b>												
Leavenworth	56	27	44	-7	0.78	4		31.89	+2.93	70	3968	+551
Oolitic	59	22	43	-6	1.46	3	52	33.38	+5.64	73	3745	+474
Tell_City	60	33	48	-5	1.01	5		32.25	+3.28	59	4528	+685
<b>Southeast (9)</b>												
Brookville	58	28	43	-5	1.01	2		28.13	+1.52	66	3844	+748
Milan_5NE	56	27	42	-6	1.01	3		35.57	+8.96	80	3461	+365
Scottsburg	59	27	43	-8	1.17	3		33.95	+6.60	69	3778	+245

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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## Soil Compaction Not Always Grounds For Deep Tillage (Continued)

"We need to be conscious about limiting traffic on these fields after loosening. One way to do that is strip tillage. Another way is to use a combination tillage operation in the fall so that it's possible to use a stale-seedbed planting system the following spring."

Vyn said farmers should be mindful of other issues when addressing compaction:

- Subsoiling should be done no deeper than 1-2 inches below the compacted soil zone, and never based on available tractor horsepower or the maximum depth a tillage tool can go.
- There is less benefit to deep loosening in fields high in organic matter, or in those with a history of manure application or regular forage crop production.
- Deep loosening can expose soil to erosion, especially if the subsoiling operation produces a large area of disturbed soil with little remaining residue cover.
- Subsoiling costs a farmer money in fuel, time and equipment use. Costs can increase if soil ripping brings up large clods, which then must be broken down by additional tillage passes.

As harvest nears an end, Vyn recommends farmers refrain from field activities that could cause soil compaction next year.

"Avoidance is always the best management practice when we deal with compaction," he said. "Avoid imposing a load on the soil when soils are too wet for that operation. Avoid doing tillage when soils are wet. Avoid planting when soils are wet. Avoid, where possible, imposing high axle loads with a combine or grain carts at harvesttime when soils are too wet.

"Also, try to avoid the creation of ruts in the field, unless it is absolutely essential in order to remove a crop prior to snowfall in the fall."

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### Related Web sites:

Purdue Extension tillage articles

Purdue University Department of Agronomy

Purdue News Service: (765) 494-2096;

[purduenews@purdue.edu](mailto:purduenews@purdue.edu)

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